



VII International Congress on Migration & Mental Health
Youth & Families Wellbeing matters in the context of Migration

20th October 2018 – Brussels

Familles du Monde, asbl & The Athena Network

HIDDEN AWAY MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESS AND STIGMATISATION

Juan Pimienta

Metropolitan Police Ibero American Association in London

Audrey Narvaez

University of Portsmouth

In ancient times, mental disorders were often thought to reflect the unhappiness of the gods, or serve as proof that someone was possessed by demons. The first recorded 'lunatic' asylum in Europe was the Bethlem Royal Hospital in London (Today it is a museum). It was initially built as a priory in 1247 (Monastery). Then it became a hospital in 1330 and admitted its first mentally ill patients in 1407. Before the Madhouses Act of 1774, treatment of the 'insane' was carried out by non-licensed practitioners. In the 1840s, Dorothea Dix observed that seriously mentally ill people in Massachusetts were often incarcerated and left naked in the dark. In 1845 the Lunacy Act and County Asylum Act together gave asylums the authority to detain '*lunatics, idiots and people of unsound minds*'. Understanding the origins of mental health illness including its language and terms are integral to a good understanding of the condition of the Ulysses Syndrome.

Keywords:

About the author

Juan Pimienta is the Chair of The Metropolitan Police Ibero American Association (MPIAA) and is working with the Iberian American and Afro-Caribbean Communities. In his present role he set up several police surgeries that enabled the Spanish and Portuguese speaking communities to report all types of crime (members of the community asked for general crime prevention). He is one of Chalk Ridge Primary School's governors since June 2016.

Audrey Narvaez is currently studying at the University of Portsmouth

Publications

He has written a book in Spanish about his experiences in the Amazon and has also published four books of poetry in Madrid and London. The experience he gained with the Amerindian tribes gave him an invaluable insight into communities that has enabled him to appreciate different customs and values. He has taken part in International Conferences representing the Metropolitan Police Ibero American Association 2013 -2015 (Lisbon, Madrid and London)



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- “*La Mía Poesía Pues*”, Madrid 1994
- “*Samiento y Violeta*” Madrid 1996
- “*Cosmopolitan Poetry*” Madrid 1996
- “*La Puerta Abierta*” London 1998
- “*Macondo*” Medellín-Colombia 2000
- “*Las Letras Rotas Verso al Mar*” London 2002
- “*Campos de Sangre*” London 2010
- Several essays and articles in different Latin American magazines in London
- “PC Bob’s Adventures” London 2018

Awards

- November 2006, he was awarded an **Assistant Commissioner Commendation for professionalism, dedication to duty and partnership working.**

He has successfully combined a hands-on style of management with a proven ability to plan and deliver training about Anti-Social Behaviour and the Orders to the highest standard to students from Wichita University (USA), as well as communities residing within London. He had also briefed various squads and units within the command as an expert in this field.

- **Garavi Gujarat 2 (GG2) Leadership and Diversity awards 2007.**

Short-listed for his community work

- 20th September 2011, **Bravery Awards**

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson praised as an unsung hero PC Juan Pimienta giving him the award for an individual who has shown exceptional courage in keeping the Peace. Winner Juan Pimienta who has worked on crime reduction particularly in the Latin American community and has diverted young people from the gang culture.

- **Community Awards 2015**

The Ibero American community has praised PC Juan Pimienta for his community service and to the Metropolitan Police Ibero American Community for their work towards members of the wider community within the United Kingdom.